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UDINOT ON CONDITIONAL CONVICTIONS

matic and tactful relationships, the subordination of private opinion, the willingness to serve without thought of credit or public recognition.

LAWRENCE VEILLER,

Secretary Committee on Criminal Courts of the Charity Organization Society, New York.

New Probation Law in Vermont.—The Vermont Commission on Probation has recently secured the enactment of an act to codify and amend the laws of that state relating to probation. It contains the radical provision that probation officers, instead of being appointed, as hitherto, by judges, shall hereafter be appointed by the State Probation Commission. According to the terms of the law, the first appointments were required to be made on March 1, 1913, and similar appointments shall be made bi-ennially hereafter. Each county has its own officer who serves during the pleasure of the State Commission. In case of need, special additional officers may also be appointed. The amount of compensation of the probation officers shall be determined by the county courts. The State Commission shall also "make all needful rules and regulations for the efficient administration of the statutes relating to probation; shall provide for such co-operation of probation officers and others connected with the administration of probation laws as in their judgment will best promote the system of probation, and to that end may hold such meetings for conference and instruction as they deem necessary; and shall prepare the forms of records, blanks and reports, and procure the necessary record books, blanks and stationery for the use of probation officers."

Section 14 of the new law authorizes probation officers, upon direction of the court, to expend for the temporary support and traveling expenses of the probationers such reasonable sums as the court may deem expedient. The amounts so authorized to be expended shall be entered on the docket of the clerk or records of the judge or justice and made a part of the record of such cause.

This new act, which was approved on January 16th, is original in many of its features. The law, together with a new act relating to the treatment of persons convicted of intoxication and a new chancery juvenile court law, is published in a pamphlet issued by the State Commission on Probation. The law is quoted in full above.—[Ed.] A. W. T.

Oudinot on Conditional Convictions.—Twenty years of experience with conditional conviction under the *loi Bérenger* (of March 26, 1891), in Frank-reich, may be studied in a report by Dr. Marcel Oudinot. The essential elements of the law are: provisional release; such release to be final if the person convicted does not become an offender again within five years. Recidivism is punished with severity. Pardon is not a feature of the law. The use of the short term in prison is avoided, all admitting that it is an evil.

It is shown that the courts have made increasing use of the law as its effects are better known. In 1892, out of 1,000 permissible cases only 127 were treated under this law; while in 1907 the rate per 1,000 was 328. Recidivism has decreased; this being due to some extent to this legal innovation; and first offenses have not increased. Some abuses require correction and the author recommends: that this measure should not be employed

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by the juries, nor substituted for fines, nor applied to minors; that it should be restricted to persons who have not been convicted before for any ordinary misdemeanor. He urges also that the benefits of the conditional release be not given in addition to the plea of "mitigating circumstances" and exemption of the detention awaiting trial from the term of punishment.

C. R. H.

Juvenile Court Legislation.—By virtue of an act approved by the Governor of Vermont on January 23rd, that state has added to the growing number having chancery instead of criminal juvenile courts. The new law, which vests jurisdiction in children's cases in the probate courts, follows the main lines of the original Illinois Juvenile Court Act of 1899.

New York State can now boast of two counties instead of one having a similar law. The Monroe County Juvenile Court Act of 1910 has been adapted to the neighboring county of Ontario through the enactment of chapters 269 and 270 of the Laws of 1913, giving the county court of Ontario County exclusive jurisdiction over all cases of delinquent and dependent children in that county, and concurrent jurisdiction over cases of offenses against children. The board of supervisors have made funds available for the employment of a probation officer, and the State Civil Service Commission is soon to hold an examination.

A bill introduced into this year's session in the New York State Assembly by its majority leader, Mr. Aaron J. Levy, contemplated the abolition of the four children's courts in New York City and the vesting of their powers and duties in a "children's bureau" of the City Board of Education. The measure excited some little furor at first, but it was soon realized that the measure contained insurmountable difficulties and had no likelihood of receiving serious consideration at the hands of the legislators. The charge was made, and evidently on good grounds, that the bill was drafted primarily in the interests of a certain school principal who had aspirations to become the chief justice of the proposed new "children's bureau," as the new court would have been called. The principal objects served by the bill were to focus attention on the fact that the New York Children's Courts have within the last year or two made very substantial progress, and now command a much greater degree of public confidence than ever before.

According to the March number of "Seeking and Saving," published in London, the Spanish Minister of Justice has recently introduced in the Senate a measure for the appointment of a special judge and court for dealing with juvenile delinquents. It is proposed that the judge shall be allowed wide discretion in administering the law, particularly in determining whether the children possess an adequate knowledge of right and wrong. Children lacking normal powers of moral discernment may be sent to charitable institutions. It is also provided that delinquents under 15 years of age may be committed to remand homes.

A. W. T.

Annual Conference of County Attorneys of Kansas.—The annual conference of county attorneys of the State of Kansas held Thursday, April 3, 1913, furnishes food for thought. While efforts are being made to secure the improvement of the criminal procedure, why should there not be an